

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please cancel the Title on page 1 and replace with the following:

A NETWORK NODE AND ASSOCIATED METHODOLOGY OF EXPANDING A  
NETWORK TOPOLOGY

Please amend the paragraph at page 11, lines 21-26, as follows:

In step S3, the average metric value calculating ~~unit~~ unit 13 of the node X calculates an average metric value of routes from the node C to each of the nodes A to D via each virtual connection, in accordance with the “metric values” and “the numbers of the nodes” included in the ~~included in the~~ acquired node-node connection information.

Please amend the original Abstract at page 17, lines 1-14 as shown on the following page: